

13 June 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD :

DDO
OLC #78-2355

SUBJECT: Conversation with SSCI Staffer Hal Ford

1. Mr. Ford sought me out, apparently to determine my general frame of mind regarding CIA/SSCI relations. (I had spoken to Mr. Ford frankly on 1 June in the wake of the New York Times article by Seymour Hersh which represented damaging leaks from the SSCI.)

2. I said that my frame of mind had improved somewhat since I had seen what I considered to be a very professional piece of work by SSCI staffer Mike Epstein. I made the point that each solid piece of work like that builds up a precedent which can be pointed to as we try to make the oversight process more beneficial to all involved. Mr. Ford replied that he had conveyed my strong feelings to Bill Miller after the 1 June meeting and that Miller's only overt reaction had been "a sense of dismay" about the leaks which the Hersh article represented. Mr. Ford said the SSCI remains mystified as to how these leaks occurred.

3. Mr. Ford passed on the following additional points:

b. David Bushong has been appointed Minority Counsel of the SSCI.

c. Mr. Ford and others who have been studying the Frank Snepp allegations are now asking to see court depositions resulting from the Snepp trial. The reading of these depositions will delay the submission of the report. Mr. Ford indicated that one of the main concerns in his report will be how well or how badly the dissent and grievance channels of CIA functioned in the wake of the Vietnam war.


4. Mr. Ford said that his newest inquiry is concerned with the NIO system. At this point he has the general feeling that the ideal approach in the writing of estimates may lie somewhere between the new defunct Board of Estimates approach which may have been too collegial and the NIO approach which may be too individualistic.



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